



# The New River Improvement Project



A Project of the California Mexico Border Relations Council and the City of Calexico

## New River Improvement Project

### Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Calexico Community Center

707 Dool Ave.

Calexico, California 92231

Thursday

October 14, 2010

2:00 p.m.

### Meeting Notes

- 1) Welcome and Introductions.** The New River Improvement Project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair Ricardo Martinez (California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)) called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. and welcomed the committee members/designees/alternates. In attendance were the following committee members/designees/alternates: Ema Rosa Silva (Calexico Community Representative), Miguel Figueroa (Calexico New River Committee), Ricardo Martinez (California Environmental Protection Agency), Daniel Garza, (California Environmental Protection Agency alternate), Luis Estrada (City of Calexico), Juan Carlos Maturino (City of Calexico alternate), Jose Luis Olmedo (Comité Cívico Del Valle), Steve Charlton (Imperial Irrigation District designee), Antonio Ortega (Office of Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez designee), Leon Lesicka (Citizens Congressional Task Force on the New River), and Jonathan Ballard (U.S. General Services Administration). Committee members in attendance by phone were Erika Contreras (Office of Assembly Member V. Manuel Perez) and Anna Milloy (California Department of Fish and Game). Committee members unable to attend included Jose L. Angel (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), Andy Horne (County of Imperial designee), Eduardo Demesa (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Linsey Dale (Imperial County Farm Bureau), Frank Gonzalez (CalTrans), Lisa Santana (International Boundary and Water Commission), and Stephen Roeder (San Diego State University). Also in attendance were: Juanita Salas (Office of Congressman Bob Filner), Carlos Angulo (CalEPA), Erika Snider (U.S. General Services Administration), Abid Khalaf (Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board), John McCaull (a consultant - by phone), and facilitators Carl Nettleton and Gabriela Coverdale.
- 2) TAC Chair Update.** Chair Ricardo Martinez reminded the TAC work group chairs that they need to supply the work plans as soon as possible. The only workgroup that completed one is the Impairments/Remediation work group.

- 3) **Adopt TAC Charter.** The County of Imperial is obtaining approval to sign the charter, consultant John McCaull confirmed to the TAC that there is no need to send the adopted TAC charter to Calexico's Council for approval since there is an existing MOU between the City of Calexico and the Calexico New River Committee and a designated representative on this issue in Councilmember Bill Hodge. Upon motion, Ballard, and second, Olmeda, the TAC Charter was unanimously adopted with the following changes:
  - a) The week of December 13, 2010, a report will be provided to the California Mexico Border Relations Council.
  - b) Juan Carlos Maturin will be added to the TAC roster as Luis Estrada's alternate.
- 4) **Adopt TAC Meeting Schedule.** The draft TAC meeting schedule was reviewed, and upon motion, Olmedo and second, Contreras, the schedule was unanimously adopted with the following changes:
  - a) Remove the column "Week Beginning" to avoid confusion.
  - b) Add report to the California Mexico Border Relations Council the week beginning December 13, 2010.
  - c) Add the week before and the week after Easter as weeks with no meetings for both the Steering Committee conference call and the TAC meeting (week of April 18 and April 25).
  - d) At the Steering Committee meeting the agenda for the next week will be approved and will send it on the Friday before the TAC meeting for comments. The TAC also recommended moving the bi-weekly TAC meetings to various locations (at no cost), including the Farm Bureau in El Centro, County offices, City offices, and Imperial Irrigation District offices. The TAC was invited to provide suggestions for meeting locations. The next meeting will be scheduled at the Farm Bureau in El Centro.
- 5) **Update from Workgroups.** The workgroup discussion included the following:
  - a) **Impairments/Remediation.** Jose Angel was not in attendance and extended his apologies. Ricardo Martinez reported in his absence:
    - i) A work plan for the Impairments workgroup was circulated and determined to be a good model for the other two groups to use.
    - ii) The workgroup has received very good support from most workgroup members in putting the plan together (done at the end of July).
    - iii) Significant progress has been made in implementing the work plan and completing many of its major tasks.
    - iv) Frank Gonzalez should also be done with the tasks assigned to him by the end of the month.
    - v) Carlos Angulo, Frank Gonzalez, and Jose have met with their Mexican counterparts to complete their deliverables (e.g., hydraulics, impairments, and remediation). They have received outstanding support and cooperation from their Mexican colleagues.
    - vi) SIDUE is coordinating for Mexico. There is a recommendation that Secretaría de Infraestructura y Desarrollo Urbano del Estado –SIDUE be invited (Jose Angel to provide contact for CalEPA secretary to invite).

- vii) They have completed a draft report with recommendations on short- and long-term data gap monitoring needs for water quality which will be finalized and submitted to the TAC by 10/20 for approval to move forward with its recommendations.
  - viii) Now that the budget has passed, they can begin implementing the recommendations within 7 working days following TAC approval (i.e., will be providing in-kind services to address the more critical short-term needs to address water quality data gaps).
  - ix) The Department of Toxic Substance Control can complete characterizing river bottom sediments and sediments in the flood plain from the Border to the crossing of the All American Canal within 1 month.
  - x) A work plan for Remediation has not yet been put together because the group first needs to better document the Impairments (current and projected). However, there are some obvious short-term remediation projects that we need to implement at the Border (e.g., screen trash) and some long-term that should be under consideration (e.g., piping/encasing a portion of the river).
  - xi) The Mexican agencies are working on a putting together a conceptual design (with costs) to install a trash screen at the Border as part of its port of entry expansion project. They will be done within 30 days or so.
  - xii) Frank will be done with his calculations for piping/encasing a portion of the river from the Border to somewhere close to the All American Canal crossing.
- b) **New River Visioning.** Miguel Figueroa reported that a work plan for the New River Visioning Workgroup will be available by Wednesday, October 20.
- c) **Funding/Background.** John McCaull reported that a draft work plan by Dan Garza had been forwarded to him and he would be provided a refined copy by October 20, too.
- 6) **Acceptance of Meeting Notes of September 30, 2010, Meeting.** The notes from the September 30, 2010, meeting were unanimously accepted with no corrections.
- 7) **Other Items for Discussion.** The following items were discussed:
- a) **Discussion of Public Meetings.** Ricardo Martinez mentioned that the first public meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 9, 2010, at locations to be determined. Because that date is only eight weeks away, an energized discussion ensued. The group brainstormed this issue, resulting in the following:
    - i) The group created the attached matrix to delineate which stakeholders need to be informed, how they can be reached, and what tools are needed to reach them (the markets (i.e. stakeholders), mediums (i.e. pipelines to convey information) and messages). The TAC concentrated on markets and mediums and later will be working on the messages. Nettleton Strategies will take the lead in coordinating this effort.

- ii) Workgroup leaders will provide Nettleton with the information to begin compiling the information.
  - iii) The TAC as a whole will be used as an advisory group to provide review and input.
  - b) The presentations and discussions at the TAC will ultimately revolve around the maps. All workgroups are asked to send maps to Gabriela Coverdale as soon as possible. If anyone has any questions, please call Gabriela at (858) 663-0021.
  - c) John McCaull suggested that Jonathan Ballard give a presentation on the Point of Entry Project. Jonathan agreed to make the presentation at the November 4, 2010, meeting.
  - d) Ricardo Martinez reported that TAC information, meeting minutes, highlights, and milestones will be posted on a CalEPA web site. Nettleton Strategies will coordinate with Trevor Taniguchi to have those items posted.
- 8) **Next Steps.** The following were determined as important next steps to be addressed at the next meeting on November 4, 2010:
- a) Review and approve work plans for all workgroups.
  - b) Public meeting discussion including budget, the style of the meetings (i.e. cafeteria style or PowerPoint presentation), tools/materials needed, spokespersons, etc.
  - c) Presentation on the Port of Entry project by Jonathan Ballard.
  - d) It will be a goal to send the agendas and related materials for the next TAC meeting on the Friday after the Steering Committee meeting.
- 9) **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:04 p.m.